

Remarks

In this divisional application, the claims of Group II (Claims 18-27 and 32-35: drawn to a method for forming a separable fastener component, classified in class 264, subclass 35), as set forth by the Examiner in the restriction requirement mailed in the parent application on September 27, 2002, are being pursued.

Following this Preliminary Amendment, fourteen claims (18-27, 32-35) remain in the application, of which four (18, 21, 22, 32) are independent. No new claims have been added.

Claims 18, 21, 22 and 32 have been amended.

In a recently filed co-pending divisional application, U.S.S.N. 10/696,118, filed on October 29, 2003, the claims of Group III, (Claims 36-42: drawn to an apparatus for fabricating a strip of a separable fastening component, classified in class 156, subclass 500) are being pursued.

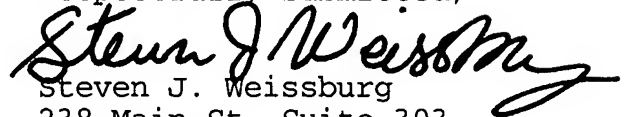
The title has been amended hereby, and the claim to benefit of U.S.S.N. 09/576,831, filed May 23, 2000, is hereby made.

The parent application, U.S.S.N. 09/576,831, was filed with informal drawings. These informal drawings were again submitted as part of this Divisional application papers, and this Preliminary Amendment also submits formal drawings that are substantively identical to the informal drawings, which

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are copies of formal drawings submitted in the parent application on September 22, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



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